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LSU SHREVEPORT

GOIN' DANCING

Pilots earn bid in national tournament

by Chrissy Chiri

The LSUS Pilots are headed to the NAIA national tournament – otherwise known as the Big Dance.

The Pilots played the University of Mobile Rams Tuesday night at the Dock for the Gulf Coast Atlantic Conference tournament championship and won, 82-62.

With this win, the Pilots will now have a higher seed in the national tournament.

The Pilots found out on Sunday that they received an at-large bid to the national tournament in Kansas City, Mo.

Because the Pilots did not finish in the top 28 in national polls or win their conference, things were looking bleak for the LSUS squad to return to the national tourney like they have the past two years. However, the NAIA selection committee looked at LSUS' overall record and chose them as one of the at-large bids to send them to the national competition.

The Pilots went 12-6 in conference play and are 25-7 overall. They finished third in the GCAC, which gave them a round one bye in the conference tournament. In round two, LSUS' opponent SUNO forfeited due to injuries and dismissals of players, which sent LSUS to round three against Xavier University. The Pilots won by a convincing score of 82-66.

Senior forward Blake Whittle said he is looking forward to the national tourney.

"We feel great. It feels great to win the conference tournament, and hopeuflly we will get to be seeded No. 14 or 15," Whittle said. "I've heard great things about Kansas City, and I hope we do well."

Game Time: The Pilots first round of the national tournament game will be shown in the LSUS UC. Go to www.lsus.edu/athletics to find out the time of the game when it is released next week.

RODRIGO MONDRAGON

Senior LSUS point guard Freddy Hughes rolls a layup in the basket for two points against the University of Mobile Rams on Tuesday night. The Pilots beat the Rams 82-62 in the Gulf Coast Atlantic Conference tournament championship game. LSUS will head to Kansas City, Mo., on Monday for the NAIA national tournament.

FEATURES • 5

Computers

LSUS doesn't support YouTube

SPORTS • 6

Sports

Baseball squad in GCAC play

the Almagest

Volume 50, Issue 6

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"Almagest" is an Arabic word meaning "great" or "majestic." It is also the title of a book written by the ancient astronomer Ptolemy who is pictured on the front page of our paper.

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Editorial Policy

The information presented in this publication by no means reflects the opinions of the administration or staff of LSUS. *The Almagest* seeks to provide information for the LSUS campus and community; to involve students, faculty and staff; and to provide a public forum for ideas as guaranteed in the First Amendment of the Constitution. Comments and complaints are welcome and should be addressed to Mike Schwalke, Editor-in-Chief. They must be accompanied by your full name and e-mail address.

Letters Policy

Letters to the editor are encouraged. However, the staff reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, length, and content. Any letter submitted by a club or organization must be signed by all members of the group or by the group's president. Letters should be e-mailed or submitted to the Almagest office, BH 344, by 5 p.m. on the Friday preceding the Thursday publication date. Please type the letter and include your classification and major. *The Almagest* reserves the right not to publish submitted materials. Obscene, libelous and anonymous letters will not be printed.

Corrections

In Volume 50, Issue 5, Christine Bradley did not write the article on MOODLE. Angel Arnold was the reporter.

SGA vice presidental candidates speak to students

by Nicole Goad

My decision to run for SGA vice president was decided one Thursday morning at about 10:45 a.m. as I sat in an SGA meeting and saw a true breakdown in leadership. In this letter I will explain that lack of leadership and tell you about two issues I've worked on to help the students at LSUS.

As an active SGA senator, I have always wanted student involvement. Along with current presidential candidate Joe Hayes and senator Matthew Baker, I spearheaded legislation to give all LSUS students 24-hour access to the campus-wide computer lab. Unfortunately, the legislation didn't pass, but members of the executive board, at my suggestion, volunteered to keep the lab open until 2 a.m. for students during the week before finals. I will keep working for 24-7 lab access for the week prior to finals this semester.

In addition, I have have supported a measure to allow students to forward their student e-mail to their personal e-mail addresses.

Consistently, one of the biggest issues with students has been the high cost of textbooks. As an SGA senator, I think this is a key issue. I spear-headed the new "Buy-Sell-Trade board" in the UC for students to trade textbooks. I've also coordinated a Web site called www.flip-a-book.com for LSUS students to trade textbooks.

I also want to increase the number of parking spots for students on campus.

I will also fight for wireless Internet access in the Noel Memorial Library for students with laptops.

I am Nicole Goad; I will continue to make a difference for the benefit of LSUS students.

by Ebonee Rhodes

My name is Ebonee Rhodes, and I want to be your next SGA vice president. I will start by saying I love LSUS! I have spent my entire college career here and the experiences and education that I gained are immeasurable. As a student I am involved in campus life and student government. I have been serving you, the student, for two years, and I would like to extend my tenure as your next vice president. I believe my involvement on campus and accomplishments in this organization will demonstrate why I would be successful as your next vice president.

During my previous tenure as an executive secretary I have made great strides to ensure that your concerns as students are voiced on campus. I have created the Open Microphone Forum and SGA Day as opportunities for students to hold their elected officials accountable. The Open Microphone Forum allows students to openly voice any concerns and ideas to their senators. SGA Day was established to encourage students to attend meetings and be knowledgeable about issues at LSUS.

My commitment to this university does not stop there. My current campus activities include being a SOAR Leader, 2005-2007 member of LSUS Danceline and involvement in campus Greek Life.

It didn't take recreational consultants to come to LSUS and tell me something that I already knew. It's time for a change in campus culture!

Campus Culture Initiatives to raise school spirit include naming of the mascot, SGA-sponsored game spirit day for each sport, On the Dock with SGA, Big Day, SGA-sponsored away bus trip and providing resources during midterm and finals week. Campus-wide Culture Initiatives include feasibility of a winter session, extending computer lab hours, addressing class scheduling issues, extending wireless capabilities throughout the campus and continuing to work with the Council of Student Body Presidents to lower Louisiana textbook prices.

My dedication and experience to this university make me the prefect candidate to serve you as SGA vice president. Let me continue to represent you.

In This Issue Vol. 50, Issue 6

Campus News . . . . . p. 3
Features . . . . . p. 4
Features . . . . . p. 5
Sports . . . . . p. 6
Entertainment . . . . . p. 7
Fun & Games . . . . . p. 8

CAMPUS NEWS

Votes count on campus

2007 election more important than you think

by Jeremiah Raab

Student Government Association elections are less than three weeks away, and candidates are making their final preparations. Official campaigning began Monday, and as of now, debates are scheduled to take place March 15 in the UC Port during Common Hour.

There are many things at stake in the upcoming election, not least of which is money. The SGA has a yearly budget of $16,900, which comes out of LSUS students' activity fees. The SGA, in large part, decides how that money is spent.

The SGA serves as a mediator between students and the administration. If students see a need on campus they can address it before the SGA, and if agreed upon by a majority, this need is brought to the administration. According to Dr. Gloria Raines, vice chancellor for student affairs, students get what they want more often than not.

"The students' rate of approval is about as good as mine," said Raines. "There are definitely more successes than failures."

In the past, numerous changes have been made on campus due to input by LSUS students. Without the desire of a few students, LSUS would be without the free period on Tuesdays and Thursdays, online registration and the UC, to name a few.

Raines

"Students have a big say on this campus," said Mike Ferrell, vice chancellor for business affairs.

In fact, Ferrell said the SGA in particular is paramount when it comes to the progress of LSUS and its student life. SGA representatives often meet with the Board of Supervisors, as well as appeal to the state legislature.

"They are a big voice. The (state) legislators, as a prime example, want to know what the students think," said Ferrell. "Well, who are the student's representatives...the SGA."

During the week of March 25-31, the future of the LSUS student government will be decided. To say that the administration is looking forward to the upcoming elections would be an understatement. According to Raines, without student involvement on campus, not much would get done.

"Most of what we do around here comes from students wanting it," she said.

Candidates unveil SGA platforms

by Angel Arnold

Elections for the Student Government Association are coming soon. Campaigning started March 5 and will last until March 24.

Students can look for campaign literature all around campus.

Candidates will post their propaganda on hallway bulletin boards, easels, sandwich boards and stakes.

Banners may also be displayed on the University Center balcony at certain times and dates.

A debate has been scheduled for the presidential and vice presidential candidates. Students are invited to attend the debate, which will be held on the Port stage during Common Hour on Thursday, March 15. The debate will last 45 minutes.

Students are asked to pose questions for the candidates to answer.

Students may leave their questions in a suggestion box at the University Center office. The questions need to be viable inquiries for the candidates to answer. Students will also find information about the candidates in the Almagest.

The SGA encourages students to vote. The SGA acts as a representative body for the students. By voting in the election, students make sure their voice is heard.

The SGA meets every Thursday at Common Hour in the UC Webster Room and all students are encouraged to attend the meetings.

Voting begins on March 25 and lasts until March 31. The only way for students to vote is through their MOODLE accounts.

Campus Briefs

Campus Bookstore has new hours

The Bookstore has changed its hours for the rest of the semester. Now, instead of opening at 8 a.m., the Bookstore will open at 7:30 a.m. The change took effect March 5.

Robert Lewis, director of auxiliary enterprises, said that students in early morning classes would queue in the lobby of the Bookstore on test days trying to get Scantron sheets. He said that by moving the hours back, students who wait until the last minute to buy their Scantrons will always be able to.

Because this is not an expansion of hours, the Bookstore will now close a half hour earlier—6 p.m. on Mondays and 4 p.m. the rest of the week.

By Mike Schwalke

Student Activities putting on special events

A St. Patrick's Day celebration will be held Thursday, March 15 at 10:30 a.m. in the UC. The Student Activities Board is sponsoring this event, and free food will be provided. Students should wear green in honor of the holiday.

Georgia Me, a spoken word poet, will be performing in the UC Theater on Tuesday, March 13 at 7 p.m

Chi Alpha is holding a Wii Sports Tournament with Wii boxing and Wii tennis. The boxing will be on March 13, and the tennis is scheduled for March 15. Both contests will be held during Common Hour in the UC game room. Two $25 cash prizes will be awarded.

By Chrissy Chiri

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION UPDATE

- SGA campaigning is in full swing. Debates are tentatively scheduled for March 15 in the UC Port. Elections will take place March 25-31.
- ISISI Bill or Pizza Bill passed. The SGA will provide pizza at one meeting a month in order to get students involved in SGA.
- The Web Site Advancement Act passed. A more updated SGA Web site will be available in the near future.
- Rachelle Walden was voted in as Senator for the College of Business.
- Keith Millstead was voted in as senator-at-large.

LSUS gets approval on hiring professors

by Devin White

Faculty recruitment is underway at LSUS. Since a reauthorization in spring '06 to hire faculty, the administration is conducting searches and interviews throughout this semester.

After hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck the state's coast almost a year and a half ago, the November 2005 legislative meeting cut the budget 3 percent, resulting in an LSUS freeze on hiring new faculty. Most of the professors hired will be full-time, tenure-track faculty.

Currently the College of Sciences has more vacancies than any other college at LSUS with seven open positions.

"We're experiencing an excellent hiring year in sciences," said Dr. Paul Sisson, dean of the college of sciences.

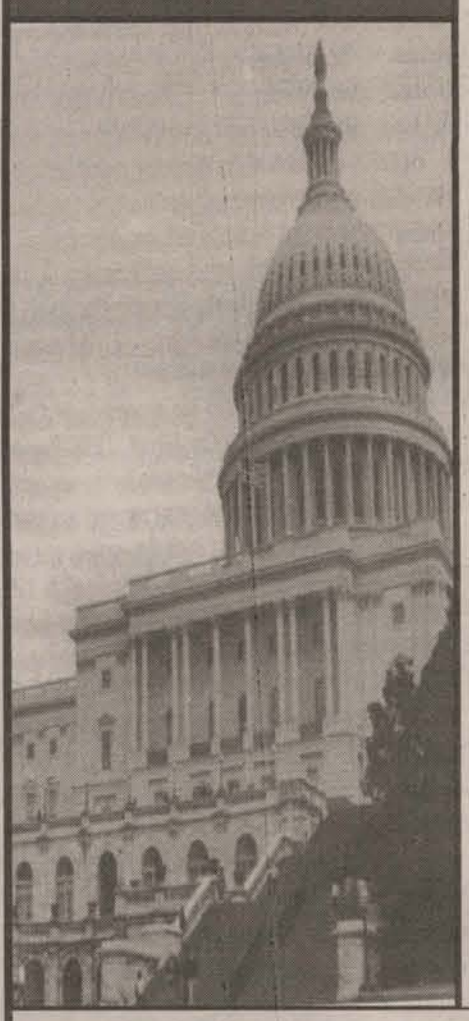
Recently the College of Sciences had five interviews with several more coming up.

"I applaud the hard work and professionalism of our department chairs and faculty," Sisson said. "I think they are very happy and very tired."

The College of Liberal Arts is looking for five professors. According to Dr. Larry Anderson, dean of the college of liberal arts, the communications and fine arts departments should be at that point within a month.

"We are conducting twice as many searches as would typically be done," Anderson said. "Because of the hurricanes we did not do any searches last year."

LSU IN SHREVEPORT WASHINGTON SEMESTER



LSU IN SHREVEPORT
24th Annual
Mini- "Washington Semester"

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- Six hours of academic credit in political science or American Studies, including internships
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- No out-of-state tuition; stay in hotel in downtown DC

There are two large fixed costs: triple occupancy hotel room (approximately $704), and tuition fees ($717). Transportation to and from DC as well as meals, are up to participants to arrange as well as some minor expenses.

DEADLINES:

$400 deposit due DECEMBER 1, 2006. This guarantees a slot on the "Washington Semester" and applies to your hotel/tuition fee. It is non-refundable. Balance for hotel/tuition is due MARCH 16, 2007

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Washington Semester Program
Louisiana State University in Shreveport
One University Place, 321 BH
Shreveport, LA 71115-2301
(318) 797-5138 fax: (318) 795-4203
email wpederson@lsus.edu or visit website www.lsus.edu/lincoln/washington.asp

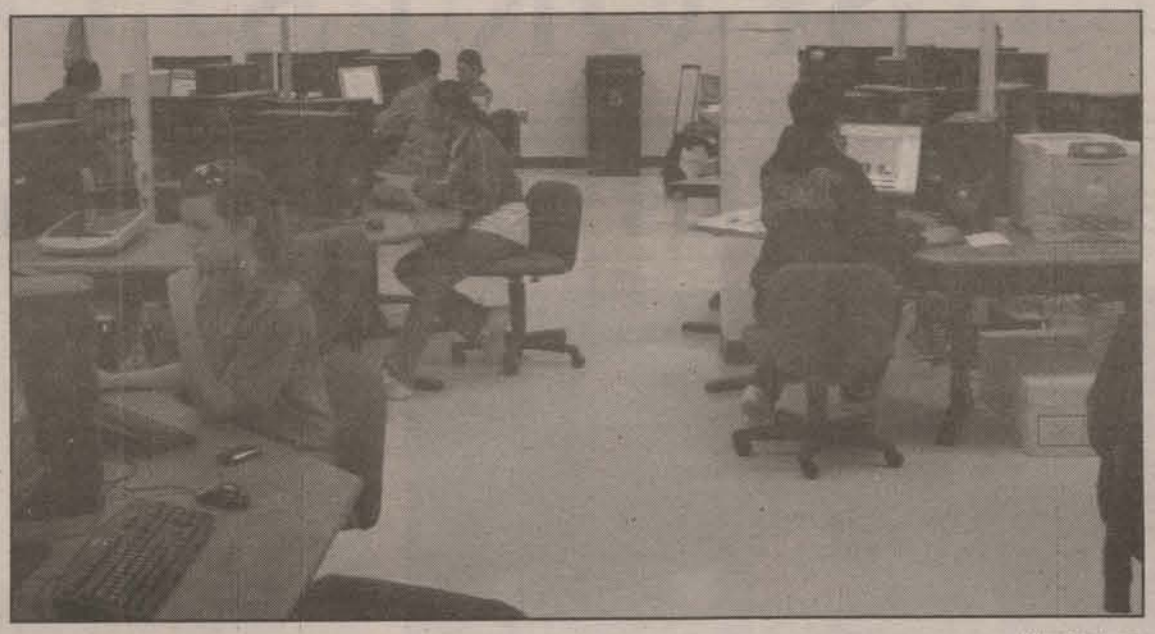
LSUS computer lab shuts down YouTube

by Brittany Harness

Changes have been made in the campus-wide lab and across the campus, and a Web site popular with the student body is no longer accessible. YouTube is blocked from viewing, leaving students wondering why. Students have mixed feelings on the subject, some bothered by the change, others indifferent and the remainder embracing it.

For those who disagree with the decision to block the site, like junior business administration major Shari Dean, arguments are raised regarding the use of the Web sites as sources for papers and research.

"YouTube is a great source for research and a way to easily locate credible and legitimate television segments pertaining to certain subjects," Dean said. "Ultimately, we are paying customers, who should be able to view pages we want and need to view."



MIKE SCHWALKE

The campus-wide computer lab has blocked access to the Web site YouTube. There are mixed opinions around campus about the decision.

Dr. John S. Vasser, chair of the department of fine arts, foreign languages and the humanities, used YouTube in his philosophy and religion classes.

"I use it when we discuss an idea or concept that pops up in the popular culture," he said.

He added that he can find clips elsewhere but will also have to invest university dollars in DVDs.

A student who feels indifferent to the change, junior business administration major Andrew Winham, said he does not feel affected.

"I don't spend time in the lab other than for school work, but I can see why people who do would be mad," he said. "But, as long as the sites weren't abused or harmful to the computer, why restrict students to what they can and cannot view?"

A strong stance is made by students who spend a great deal of time in the lab.

One student, sophomore marketing major Sarah Clark, said that too many students took up too much time and too many computers for non-school related work from those students who are completing class and homework assignments.

"When the lab is busy, it's frustrating to see that some people are on YouTube searching for who knows what, when you're there to get work done," Clark said. \

She also said a lack of functioning computers in the campus-wide lab pressures students to battle for the remaining computers. "It's just inconvenient."

Could similar sites, like MySpace and Facebook, be next on the list of blocked sites?

Students are left wondering. Upon opening, some receive pop-up windows, followed immediately by the browser's closing.

So if you have YouTubing to do, You-DON'T-Tube from the LSUS campus.

When contacted, computing services did not respond.

Student chooses to wear Hijab, happy with decision

by Amy Shirley

It seems rather risky to be unique in today's society. Though everyone seems to want to stand out and be unique, we tend to judge each other depending on the clothes we wear.

Fatima Ankoud, senior sociology major, is a student who can relate to the old saying, "You can't judge a book by its cover." Ankoud is a Muslim, and she wears the traditional Muslim style of dress called the Hijab.

Ankoud has been wearing the Hijab for two years now. The rules for wearing the Hijab are outlined in The Quran, the Muslim Holy Book.

Basically, Muslim women are to wear the Hijab in front of any man that they could possibly marry. Ankoud said that the decision wasn't an easy one to make. Ankoud's father didn't want her to start wearing the traditional dress because he was afraid she would be treated badly in American society. Ankoud has experienced prejudice since she started wearing the Hijab.

"A guy even asked me if I was Saddam Hussein's wife one time," said Ankoud.

Ankoud said that she wishes more people would travel to the Middle East and be open to learn about different cultures because many misconceptions are made about her faith.

> "My fiancé has never seen me without the Hijab."
>
> Fatima Ankoud
>
> Sociology student

"People think I don't believe in God," said Ankoud, "They think I believe in Allah, but Allah is just the Arabic word for God…Many people don't know that Muslims believe in Jesus, but we respect him and we love him… We believe in the Bible, and we believe in the Virgin Mary."

Ankoud wishes that Christians would begin to see the similarities between their faith and hers. "I'm amazed when I talk to Christians… I'm always saying, 'Really? Me, too,'" said Ankoud.

Ankoud's sisters, Nivine and Amenah, talked about her decision to start wearing the Hijab. "Just because she covers up her hair and her arms and legs doesn't change the person she is," said Nivine.

Nivine and Amenah explained that their sister has always been a sweet, patient person. "She raised me like I was her own child," said Amenah.

"I know that she loves us more than she loves herself," said Nivine.

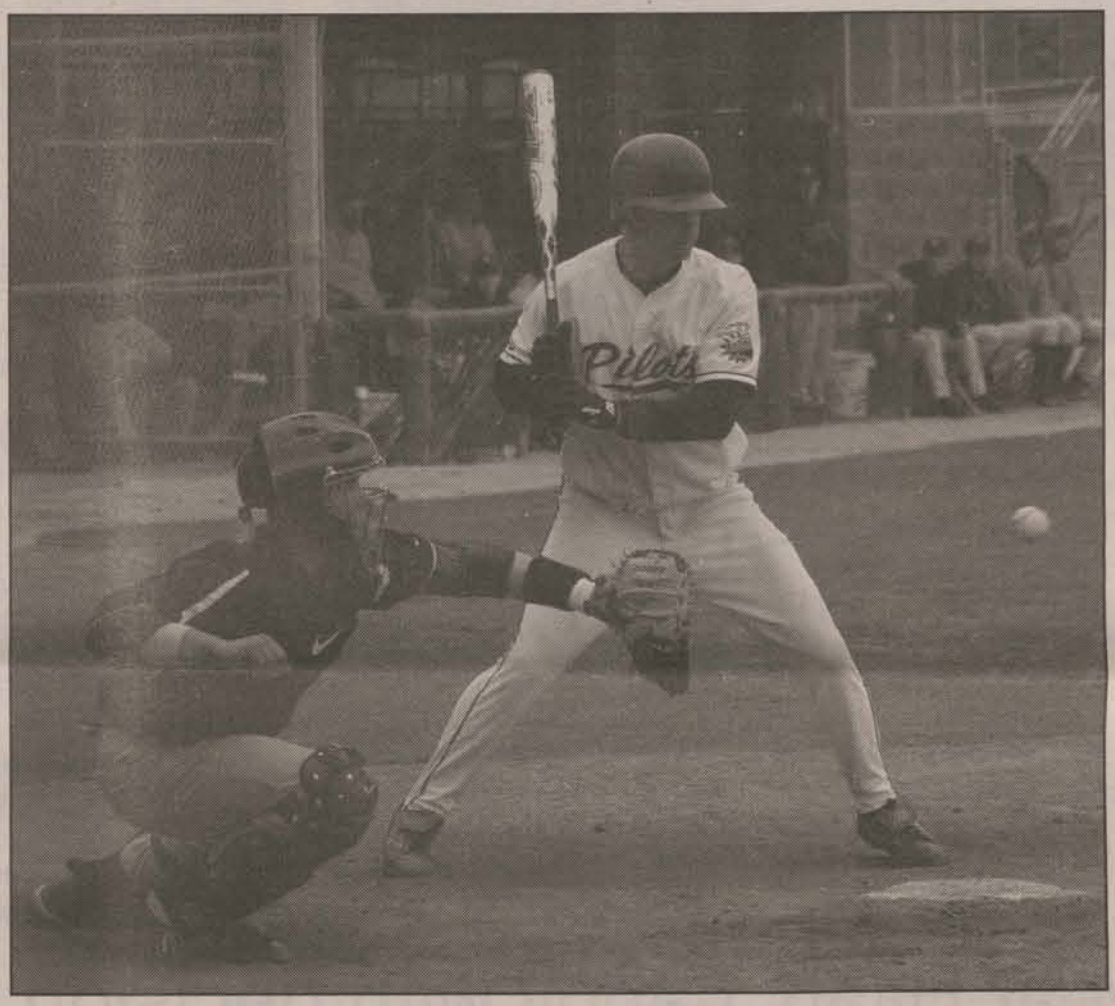
"My fiancé has never seen me without the Hijab," said Ankoud, "He loves me for who I am and what I have to say and how well our personalities go together rather than how good I look in a skirt or tight jeans."

Though Fatima Ankoud covers herself from head to toe, one can't help but see her inner beauty shining through.

A book cannot be judged by its cover, but many new ideas can be learned, if you're willing to open the book and read it.

SPORTS

LSUS baseball holds onto second in GCAC



CHRISSY CHIRI

LSUS senior shortstop Brandon Magierowski watches a pitch float over the plate during the Pilots series against Loyola University last weekend. LSUS won two of the three games and now sits in second place in the Gulf Coast Atlantic Conference.

by Chrissy Chiri

The Pilots baseball team beat the Loyola Wolfpack two out of three times last weekend to put them in second place in the Gulf Coast Atlantic Conference.

With superior pitching from senior Kevin Jewell and junior Juan Leon, the Pilots picked up two wins in the double header on Saturday. However, with shaky pitching and defense the Pilots lost in the bottom of the ninth on Sunday.

Jewell pitched seven innings, gave up three hits and no runs to get the 3-0 win for his team. He is 1-2 on the year with an ERA of 0.89.

Leon got his fourth win of the year on Saturday as well as the Pilots' offense exploded for 12 runs to the Wolfpack's one. Leon is 4-0 on the season with a 1.08 ERA.

LSUS lost the third game of the series in a see-saw game where the lead changed almost every other inning.

The Pilots were leading 8-7 heading into the bottom of the eighth, but Loyola tied things up with a solo home run against LSUS pitcher Mark Dainty. LSUS was unable to score in the top of the ninth, and the Wolfpack scored one off an RBI single by Bobby Alvarez to win 9-8.

In the third game of the series, the Pilots also committed three errors. However, none of them resulted in runs scored.

LSUS will play again this weekend in Hattiesburg, Miss., where they will face conference rivals William Carey College. The Crusaders and Pilots have bad blood between the two after a history of tense games.

Game one is scheduled for Friday at 6 p.m.

Lady Pilots out of GCAC playoffs

by Chrissy Chiri

The LSUS Lady Pilots season came to a close last week as they lost their opening-round playoff game against the University of Mobile Rams, 78-65.

The Lady Pilots finished the Gulf Coast Atlantic Conference in fifth place, setting the record for highest finish since the program was rebuilt four years ago.

LSUS says goodbye to seniors Moche Roque and Jessica Kelly. Both were guards for the Lady Pilots and played the last two seasons.

Kelly finished the year as the leading scorer for her team, averaging 11.9 points per game and 5.9 rebounds per game.

Roque, the 5-10 guard, averaged 4.3 points per game and started 17 games this year.

The Lady Pilots will have four players returning as seniors for next season.

Head coach Ronnie Howell said he is proud of his team for the way they came together, especially at the end of the season.

LSUS had a 9-9 conference record this year and a 13-15 overall record, which was good enough to set the finish record.

The University of Mobile was knocked out of the GCAC tournament in round two by the Loyola Wolfpack. Mobile finished fourth in the conference this season.

GCAC 2007 Baseball Standings

Team	Record	Streak
Belhaven	7-2	Won two
LSUS	4-2	Lost one
Mobile	3-3	Won one
William Carey	3-6	Lost two
Spring Hill	2-4	Lost one
Loyola	2-4	Won one
Tougaloo	0-0	Lost one

ENTERTAINMENT

UPCOMING LSUS CONCERT SCHEDULE

March 1 – A-1/Erin

March 13 – Molly Dean

March 27 – Brazz Tree

April 12 – Student artists

Opera Xpress

RODRIGO MONDRAGON

The Shreveport Opera Xpress' Kirsten Chambers recently performed in the LSUS UC Theater. The show included a pianist and two female and one male opera singers.

Jackson great in new film

by Chris Gray

"Black Snake Moan" is the story of a troubled young nymphomaniac who awakens after a wild night of sex and boozing to find herself chained to an old blues guitarist's space heater.

Samuel L. Jackson ("Snakes on a Plane," "Pulp Fiction"), Christina Ricci ("Casper," "Sleepy Hollow") and Justin Timberlake ("Alpha Dog") star in this original, quirky and emotional film.

Jackson stars as Lazarus, a lonely, heart-broken blues guitarist who has nothing left to give until he finds a dying girl on the side of the road. His performance was amazing and heart-felt. He was so genuine in his delivery of lines and emotion of his performance. He made the scenes have substance, and he could draw the audience in through his performance and keep them entertained.

Ricci plays Rae, a nymphomaniac who is befriended by Jackson's character after he chains her to his heater. Ricci has always been a good actress, but in this film she was amazing. Her performance in this film was unique, and she went through the full spectrum of emotions in her acting. Her acting ability has improved dramatically over the years, and this performance is a testament to that. She went from weird and mentally disturbed to happy to enraged at the drop of a hat, and I was completely amazed by her.

Timberlake was decent. The infamous boy-bander tried his hardest but just wasn't able to capitalize on his scenes. He tried to cry but looked like he was either five years old or faking it–I am not sure which. He tried to act tough but his voice and body language betrayed the fact that he could not. This guy has a good voice. He needs to sing and not try to make the crossover to film because he has no acting ability.

The plot of this film was the most original I have seen in a long time. It was phenomenally put together, and the quirky characters and deep story made it fantastic to sit and watch the events unfold. There were no holes in the story where I had to ask myself what was going on or who was the focus of the story at any given moment.

Writer-director Craig Brewer made this film everything that it could be. He didn't butcher it and let the suits tell him how to make his movie. His camera work was great and helped bring everything in the film into perspective, and his ability to direct actors was phenomenal.

He was able to bring out emotion in the actors through dialog and body language, and the way he set up scenes made them emotional yet entertaining to watch. He was able to tell a great story and not sacrifice substance for entertainment.

There were no special effects in the film at all. The only thing I considered special in the film was Jackson's ability to play the blues guitar and sing the blues like B.B. King or Son House.

UPCOMING LSUS MOVIE NIGHT SCHEDULE

March 28 – SuperSize Me

April 20 – Charlotte's Web

April 26 – Casino Royale

May 3 – Pursuit of Happyness

FUN & GAMES

Help LSUS' Debate Team!

Judges, timekeepers and spectators needed for the IPDA National Debate Tournament at LSUS on March 30-31. Call Mary Jarzabek at 797-5318 for more information.

Sudoku Puzzle

5			8				3	9
	7			2	6		1	
9		1	4			7		
		6		9	8			4
	4		7			3		8
2		5		1			6	
	9	2			7	5		
	1			3		6		2
6			1		2		9	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

LSUS Sports Schedule

Friday, March 9

6 p.m.

LSUS at

William Carey College*

(baseball)

Saturday, March 10

1 p.m.

LSUS at

William Carey College*

(baseball double-header)

Friday, March 16

6 p.m.

Belhaven College at LSUS*

(baseball)

Saturday, March 17

1 p.m.

Belhaven College at LSUS*

(baseball double-header)

Tuesday, March 20

4 p.m.

LSUS at

Oklahome City University

(baseball double-header)

Wednesday, March 21

2 p.m.

LSUS at

Oklahome City University

(baseball double-header)

* asterisk denotes conference game

Bert Stroud, the Anthropologist

By: Mike Schwalke and Diego Tripodi

STROUD HEADS TO DE VILLIER'S HEADQUARTERS FOR ANSWERS.
OOF
WATCH YOURSELF.
YOU MIGHT BUMP INTO THE WRONG MAN.
INSIDE DE VILLIER'S OFFICE...
NONSENSE, STROUD! I HIRED YOU TO INVESTIGATE KALUNGA, NOT MUCK AROUND WITH SOME PIE-EYED HACK.
INSINUATING THAT I AM ALLIED WITH SOME SHADOWY FIGURE...
YOU ASKED ME TO ACT AS AN OBSERVER AND LITTLE MORE.
FORGET IT! I HIRED YOU TO BRING AN EDGE IN NEGOTIATIONS.
ARCHEOLOGISTS DIG IN THE DIRT AND SULLY THEIR HANDS. YOU'VE MISUNDERSTOOD ME.